

CUMBRIA

STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 00:01 ON FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

COASTAL PROJECT IN CUMBRIA GETS £2.4 MILLION BOOST

- **Activities centre in Whitehaven to benefit from Government investment**
- **Coastal Communities Fund plays key role in boosting prosperity as part of drive to level up every part of the UK**
- **Government is investing over £200 million in the Great British Coast by 2021**

People living in Cumbria will benefit after over £2.4 million from the Government's Coastal Communities Fund was awarded to a project set to deliver local jobs and bring more visitors to Whitehaven.

The Cumbria Coastal Activities Centre project will create a dedicated facility for aqua sports, provide storage facilities at Whitehaven Harbour as well as a low carbon arts and community centre which will benefit the entire town.

This latest investment in Cumbria is part of an additional £10.4 million awarded to projects around the Great British Coast from the Government's Coastal Communities Fund. The fund has already supported projects in the region including £1.06 million awarded to Connecting Cumbria's Hidden Coast, a project to improve visitor infrastructure, facilities and activities along Cumbria's "hidden" coast and £2.35 million awarded to the Experience Morecambe Bay project to create new transformational visitor attractions along Morecambe Bay, including marketing the new attractions, routes and experiences to visitors.

It comes just days after Workington, Cleator Moor, Millom, Carlisle and Barrow-in-Furness were named among the first 100 places to benefit from the Government's £3.6 billion Towns Fund which will support a new generation of multi-million-pound town deals to play a key role in levelling up prosperity in every part of the UK.

Minister for the Northern Powerhouse and Local Growth, Rt Hon Jake Berry MP said;

"Our £2.4 million investment in the Cumbria Coastal Activities Centre is the latest example of how this Government is supporting communities across Cumbria and the Northern Powerhouse to thrive and at the heart of the Government's plan to level up every part of the UK.

"From the Borderlands Growth Deal to the Towns Fund this Government is ensuring that places like Whitehaven are in the best possible position to prosper.

“Building on our £228 million investment into coastal communities, the projects receiving funding today were designed by local people who know best what will bring the biggest benefit to their community.

“Their fantastic ideas demonstrate the raw potential of our coastal towns and will help create good jobs, boost economic growth and improve people’s lives as we leave the EU on 31 October.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

The Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) was introduced in 2012. This latest announcement brings the total Coastal Community Fund investment to £228 million which is supporting 359 projects across the UK and forecast to create over 20,000 jobs.

The Government has also supported 184 “at risk” coastal heritage assets such as seafront piers, promenades, lighthouses, lidos and marinas with a further £7.5 million investment from the Coastal Revival Fund to allow them to reach their full economic potential.

The successful projects to receive funds are:

Cumbria Coastal Activities Centre - £2.45 million

The centre will create a dedicated facility for water sports and recreational activities at Whitehaven Harbour. The proposed low carbon Cumbria Coastal Activities Centre building will include an activity, arts and community centre with a multi-purpose event and educational space.

Southwold Enterprise Hub - £995,000

The enterprise hub will have space for one retail and 15 business units, including co-working areas for new and existing businesses. A Southwold Development Team will be set up with responsibility for regenerating the local economy, including business support and marketing activity.

Dover Soul - Revitalising Dover's Historic Market Square and Old Town - £2.44 million

To increase the number of visitors to the Old Town, the market square will be rejuvenated and the high street re-established as a leisure destination. Features will include improved pedestrian and public transport access, a water feature and green spaces. Year-round events will attract visitors and the wider community to the square.

Environmental Innovation Hub at Bournemouth and Poole Seafront – £2.39 million

The hub, part of wider improvements of the Dorset coast, will feature eco-accommodation and leisure facilities and improved public lighting. An interactive visitor centre will include a catering kiosk, public toilets, a lifeguard control point and waste transfer station. The hub will focus on reducing, and ultimately eliminating, single-use plastics through a programme of research and public recycling initiatives.

Destination Lydney Harbour, Gloucestershire - £2.1 million

The project will create safe, attractive transport routes into the harbour and develop the area as a recreation and tourism destination. This includes improved signage, art displays and an arts-based walking trail. Existing buildings will be upgraded with new toilets, a heritage information point and a new café. Mooring and seating points will be installed and improvements made to cycle routes, highway and station approaches and canal and harbour docks. Also planned is a community rowing boat building project.